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N. E. FARMER.

From Fessenden's Complete Farmer.

DRAINS.

Drains used in farming are of two kinds, open and covered. Drains should be of a size and depth proportioned to the extent of the swamp and the probable quantity of water for which they are designed to be channels. They should generally be carried through the lowest and wettest part of the soil, although it should be necessary, in order to effect that purpose, to deviate from straight lines. Open drains answer the double purpose of conveying off superfluous water and of enclosing fields; but they make a hazardous and inconvenient fence without the addition of a bank, hedge or railing. The Farmer's Assistant says, "When a ditch is made for a fence, it ought to be four feet wide at the top, one or less at the bottom, and about two and a half deep; with the earth all thrown out on one side, and banked up as high as possible." Sir John Sinclair states, that "it is a general rule regarding open drains, with a view of giving sufficient slope and stability to their sides, that the width at top should be three times as much as that which is necessary at the bottom, and in the case of peat mosses or soft soils, it should be such as to allow the water to run off without stagnation, but not with so rapid a motion as to injure the bottom."

But before you attempt to drain a piece of land, it will be well not only to calculate the cost, but to ascertain the nature of the soil which it is proposed to render fit for cultivation. If the subsoil or under layer be clay, the swamp may be worth draining, though there should be no more than six inches of black soil or mud over it, for the clay and the mud mixed will make a fertile soil. But if the subsoil or under stratum be gravel or white sand, it will not, in common cases, be best to undertake draining, unless the depth of black mud be as much as from fifteen to eighteen inches deep; for the soil will settle after draining, and be less deep than it was before. But the situation of the land to be drained may authorize some variation from these general rules.

The manner of draining a swamp is as follows: Beginning at the outlet, pass a large ditch through it, so as mostly to cut the lowest parts. Then make another ditch quite round it, near to the border, to cut off the springs which come from the upland, and to receive the water that runs down from the hills upon the surface in great rains. These ditches should be larger or smaller, in some proportion to the size of the swamp, the shape and size of the hills which surround it, and other circumstances which might tend to greater or less quantities of water being occasionally or generally led into the ditches. If the swamp be large, it may be necessary that some smaller cross drains should be cut in several directions. The bottom of the main ditches, when the soil is not of an extraordinary depth, must be lower than the bottom of the loose soil; otherwise the soil will never become sufficiently dry and firm.

It is said by Sir John Sinclair, (Code of Agriculture, p. 182,) that "in all drains it is a rule to begin at the lowest place and to work upwards, by which the water will always pass from the workmen and point out the level. This enables the laborers also to work in coarse weather, and prevents their being interrupted by wet so early in the season as otherwise might happen."

The mud and other materials which are dug out of a ditch or drain, should not be suffered to lie in heaps or banks by the side of the ditch, but should be spread as equally as possible over the surface of the drained land. In this way, the matter taken from the ditches will tend to level the surface of the swamp, will, perhaps, serve in some measure for manure, and will not present any impediment to the passage of the water to the ditches.—In some cases it may be advisable to transport the earth which is taken from the ditches to the farmyard or the hog-pen, to form a part of that layer which good farmers generally spread over those places in autumn, to imbibe liquid manure, or make into compost with dung. In many instances, we are told, that the earth thus dug out of ditches is thought to be worth enough to pay for the expense of digging the ditches.

Mr Henry W. Delavan, in a communication on the subject of Under-draining, in the New England Farmer, vol. x. p. 97, says:

"Without this salutary and simple operation, no inconsiderable proportion of many valuable districts of our country must continue little better than waste. It is generally total loss of labor to the farmer who attempts to cultivate wet lands in our rigorous climate, and by draining, these useless, inhospitable acres have been found of the kindliest and most productive character.

"Having a surplus of stones on my estate beyond what fences require, I use the smaller and ill-formed for drains; they have the advantage of brush in durability and of tiles in economy. My drains are, for the most part, three feet in depth, two feet in width at top, sloping to one at bottom. The bottom stones are largest, and are carefully placed, to allow the water to flow freely beneath, while above the small stones are thrown in at random, so that when levelled they are beneath the plow. Over these, swingle-tow, shavings or straw may be thrown, after which the earth can be replaced by the spade or plow, so as to present a rather higher surface than the grounds adjacent, and the business is accomplished. It is very essential that the descent be easy, neither too quick nor too slow, and that all surface water be excluded, as it would speedily choke and destroy the underdraining. I estimate the average cost of such drains at sixty-two and a half cents the rod. It should be remarked that underdraining is adapted to lands presenting sufficient declivity to carry off the springs, and it is only the under water that is meant to be drained in this manner, while open ditches are adapted to the bottom lands for the conveyance of surface water. I will state what appears to me the prominent advantages that the cultivator may promise himself by a thorough system of draining.

"In the first place, he creates, as it were, so much additional terra firma, and adds essentially to the health of all around him, by correcting the ill tendencies of excessive moisture. He can cultivate reclaimed lands several weeks earlier and as much later in each year than those that are unreclaimed, and his crops are better and more sure. The labor of after tillage is much diminished. The stones that impede the plow and scythe are removed; and not the least essential benefit is the constant supplies of water which may be insured in any field inclining to moisture, which, with reference to animals, will, as a permanent convenience and advantage, fully compensate the expense of drains."

From the Farmer's Cabinet.

BAKEWELL AND MERINO SHEEP.

Mr Editor—In John Lawrence's valuable treatise on Cattle, there is a highly interesting account of a cross between the pure Merinos and the Bakewell breed of sheep, which appears worthy our serious regard. It is now pretty generally conceded that the grand secret in crossing is to commence with dam the best; and amongst breeders in Europe, more care is observed in the selection of the male, as to form and constitution, than to size; indeed, a preference is give for a small male rather than a large one, compared with the size of the female. Amongst the breeders of pure Devon cattle, but little regard is had to the size of the bull: his points and purity of blood are the objects for which they seek, in rearing large oxen; always choosing, as a matter of the first importance, a cow of large size and capacity for breeding.

At page 591 of Lawrence's Treatise, it is said, (quoted from Thompson,) "Mr Hose, a considerable grazier at Melton Mowbray, has crossed several of his Bakewell or Dishley ewes with a Merino ram, with decisive success: I lately requested this gentleman to send me a few fleeces of the wool, which I put into the hands of Mr Hawksley, inquiring what was the present value of such wool? His answer was, "We will give eighteen pence per pound for two thousand packages tomorrow, and take one hundred packages weekly, by contract, at the same price, for seven years, certain." Now this price is nearly twice as much as can at present be obtained for pure Bakewell wool, and these sheep produce little more than the Merino-Dishleys, for although the Merino shortens the staple, he thickens the pile, so that every fleece is nearly double in value. The loss that we are to look for then, is in the carcass, and this is infinitely less than will at first be supposed; it seems, indeed, to be now very generally agreed, that in sheep the sire operates principally on the fleece and the dam on the carcass, which is illustrated by Mr Hose's Merino-Dishleys, they being superior in form to any that I ever saw with Spanish blood in their veins, and having lost little, if any, in size. Many Bakewell breeders have their whole of one, two, and three years on hand, whereas Mr Hawks-

ley's note seems clearly to prove, that one cross with the pure Merino would make their wool immediately saleable, at a great advance of price, for seven years to come, while no deterioration would have taken place in the carcass."

Lawrence adds: "The loss of size in the Merino-Dishley cross, is a natural result, perfectly independent of the idea of deterioration; and as to the flesh, nothing can be better calculated than a Spanish mixture to remove the natural insipidity of Bakewell mutton."

On the subject of the deterioration of the wool by crossing, and the impossibility of preserving its fineness out of Spain, Lawrence says: "I lately exposed the following patterns of cloths to one who ought to be as capable a judge of cloth as any man in England, and who was formerly convinced of the utter impossibility of growing fine wool in this country:—No. 1, given me by *himself* two years since, as the finest pattern of cloth London could produce, and made from imported Spanish wool; No. 2, Lord Somerville's cloth, manufactured, I believe, in 1806, (made from pure Merino, grown in England;) No. 3, a late and very beautiful pattern of Dr. Parry's Merino-Ryland cloth. The judge instantly threw aside No. 1, as totally unworthy to stand in competition! giving the preference to Dr. Parry's specimen: but on a final examination, declared that he thought Lord Somerville's pattern somewhat the finest and the fabric most substantial, the other wearing the face of a beautiful lady's cloth, in appearance like those made of Saxon wool."

Now, cannot we apply the above account of a most interesting experiment to our advantage? It is supposed by some in this country that the wool is deteriorated by crossing, the fleece being neither decidedly fine or coarse, and the staple of different lengths—neither combing or clothing—but here is proof positive, and only one among hundreds, that this is not the fact, and that a great profit is to be derived from a judicious cross with the small Merino ram on the large Dishley ewe. With regard to the flavor of the Merino mutton, Lawrence says: "I have never heard any man complain of the quality of Spanish mutton but he who *never tasted it.*" J. L.

From the Kentucky Farmer.

ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF ICE HOUSES.

☞Professor Peter has our hearty thanks for his excellent communication, as we are sure he will receive those of our readers interested in the subject so satisfactorily treated.

LEXINGTON, Aug. 9, 1841.

To the Editor of the Kentucky Farmer:

DEAR SIR—The desire to contribute my mite, however small, to the support of your valuable paper, prompts me to send you the following remarks on the construction of ice houses; which, however, I beg you not to publish, unless you think they are worth the space they would occupy in your columns. Yours, respectfully,

ROBT. PETER.

The principles which should be kept in view in the construction of houses for the preservation of ice, are few and simple. The sole object of the structure being to prevent the passage of *caloric* (a definite term employed to designate the *cause* of the sensation called *heat,*) from the earth, the air or the sun, to the ice; for if we could completely prevent the passage of that agent into the ice, it would retain its solid form for any length of time.

The temperature of ice, when at its melting point, is 32, Fahrenheit; in order that it may melt into water, it must absorb 140 degrees of caloric, sufficient to raise its temperature to 172 deg., but which only changes its form from solid to liquid, without rendering it any warmer than it was before—the water draining from the melting ice being always at the same temperature with the ice itself. Without the accession of these 140 degrees of caloric, therefore, ice would never be melted into water.

Could we construct a house of materials that were perfect non-conductors of caloric, the preservation of ice contained in it would be complete. As, however, we have no perfect non-conductors, we must select for our purpose those substances which conduct most slowly. The materials which experience has selected for articles of clothing, to preserve the natural temperature of our bodies, stand at the head of the list of these substances, and would also be the very best that could be used to protect ice from the surrounding caloric, were they not too dear and too perishable in their nature. As these, however, cannot be employed, for this reason, except in preserving small quantities for immediate use, we are obliged to resort to others less perfect but cheaper and more indestructible. Among these are the following, which I have placed in the order of their relative resistence to the passage of caloric, as determined by Count Rumford and others; those which oppose the greatest obstruction to its passage being placed first, viz:

Charcoal of light wood,
Dry wood ashes,
Tan bark,
Wood,
Sand,
Bricks,
Porous earth,
Porous rocks,
Dense rocks.

According to our data, one of the best modes of forming the walls of an ice house, would be to make a frame-work of timbers, say from 6 to 12 inches thick, to board it up on both sides of the timbers, and fill the spaces between the boards with powdered charcoal, dry wood ashes, tan bark or saw dust; the floor and covering of the structure being protected in the same manner; and on filling it with ice, a considerable thickness of straw should be placed at the bottom, sides and top.

Where these materials are not easily to be obtained, logs of wood, built up in the pit like a log cabin, make a very good substitute; more especially if filled on the outside, next the earth, with charcoal, ashes, sawdust, or tan bark. For this purpose charcoal and ashes are preferable to sawdust and tan bark, in consequence of their indestructibility.

Bricks and stones, although often employed in the construction of ice houses, are less proper than wood, unless lined on the outside with a sufficient thickness of charcoal, ashes, or other imperfect conductors.

Ice houses are frequently made partly above and partly below the general surface of the ground; the top being arched over and the earth which was dug from the pit being thrown on the top of the structure, in the form of a mound. This is a very good form, provided all the sides are protected by non-conductors, from the caloric of the soil. The caloric of the sun's rays, absorbed by the surface of the porous earth in summer, passes through it with considerable difficulty and travels slowly to the interior; passing off again in part by the same slow process back to the surface, to be dissipated during the cold of winter. In consequence of the difficulty with which it penetrates porous earthy matters, the daily changes of temperature cannot be observed at a greater depth than 3 or 4 feet, and the great annual vicissitudes are entirely lost before they descend 100 feet below the surface. The earth's surface, therefore, does not become heated or cooled rapidly to any considerable depth, and deep caves and excavations in the earth, preserve a scarcely varying temperature, which approaches that of the mean temperature of the region. This is the temperature of the water of deep wells, or of springs rising from some depth, which by comparison appears cold in summer and warm in winter. The mean temperature of this region is somehwere between 52 and 56 degrees, Fah.; 20 or 24 degrees above the melting point of ice; so that there is always caloric enough in the soil, below the surface, to melt ice, even during the winter season, and deep ice houses, whether covered or not with a mound of earth, hence require the protection of walls of non-conducting materials.

One of the most common causes of the rapid melting of ice in ice houses, is the want of sufficient drainage. If the water which drops from the ice or sinks from the surface of the soil, cannot drain away, but remains at the bottom of the house in contact with the ice, it serves as a medium through which the caloric of the earth passes with facility, causing the rapid melting and sinking of the ice. At the bottom of every ice house, therefore, if it is not in a very sandy soil, there should be a well of sufficient magnitude, or the floor should be raised to such a height above the earth as to prevent the water from ever coming in contact with the ice. Decomposition, and the formation of mephitic gases, as suggested by one of your correspondents, cannot take place under these circumstances; the most fermentable liquids do not begin their fermentation until their temperature is raised above 32 deg., which is that of the water dripping from ice.

Those houses which are not covered with a mound of earth, should have a good roof, or what is better, a tight room built over them, to prevent the circulation of air as much as possible, and the roof and sides should be rendered as nearly proof against the passage of caloric, as straw or other substances of the kind, fixed on the inside, can make them; and to prevent as much as possible the absorption of the caloric of the sun's rays, the whole exterior, roof and all, should be well whitewashed—it being a well established fact, that much less is absorbed by a white surface than by a black one.

A great deal may be gained in the preservation of ice, by putting it up during the very coldest weather. For example, if ice be cut and exposed for a sufficient time to the air, when the thermometer is at zero, and packed away at that temperature, it must become heated up to its melting point, 32 degrees above zero, before a particle of it will liquefy. But if packed in the house on a mild day, when in a thawing condition, it being already heat-

ed up to its melting point, the first degree of caloric that passes into it melts a portion. It has been already stated that 140 degrees are necessary to the liquefaction of ice, and it will be seen, therefore, that 140 pounds of ice, put up at the temperature of zero, is equivalent to 172 pounds which is packed in a melting condition.

The form of an ice house is by no means a matter of indifference. That which presents the smallest external surface is, theoretically, the best; therefore, other things being equal, a globular form would be the most proper. This, however, is not a convenient one to construct, and hence the truncated cone, or square, are those most frequently adopted, and answer sufficiently well. The worst possible form would be a long narrow one.

From the Albany Cultivator.

FARMING WITHOUT RUM.

Whoever commenced the temperance reformation, was, in truth, a benefactor to the human race. From the highways and byways, from the borders of the abyss of degredation, if not from the depths of the abyss itself, thousands will rise up to call that man blessed, who has saved them from themselves. Great as are the talents of O'Connell, there is an unpretending priest, who is at the present moment doing more to elevate, disenthral and regenerate Ireland, than a thousand O'Connells, without his aid, could have done. Wherever Father Mathew goes, the distilleries become useless, the pig gets an extra quantity of corn, the wife a new dress, and the laborer sheds his rags for a new coat, saved from earnings that formerly went to brutalize and impoverish himself and family.

Scarcely less striking has been the result of abstaining from the common use of ardent spirits in the United States, and in no department of industry has this influence been more beneficially felt than in that of agriculture. Of this no one, we believe, doubts, who has made the experiment of farming without rum, or in other words, banishing ardent spirits from his farming operations.

We are well aware there were thousands, in fact nearly every farmer in the country, who when the idea of farming without the use of ardent spirits was first proposed, deemed it wild and visionary, if not impossible. So intimate had the associations of work and rum become, in the minds of most men, that to separate them—to undertake to break in upon long established usage—to get in a harvest, or erect a building, without such drinks, required no little exercise of reason and independence of feeling. Many who were convinced the practice was useless, hesitated about abolishing it, lest the withholding spirits should be charged to a penurious disposition. Good sense, however, and a feeling of right prevailed; rum was banished from the harvest field and the raising, in numerous instances, and it was found that none of the injurious effects anticipated by many, followed. There was no want of laborers; the coarse grains still commanded good prices; and four or five distilleries in every town ceased to produce and distribute misery and death.

In those neighborhoods and on those farms from which intoxicating drinks have been banished, those revolting scenes unfortunately once too common, are now no longer seen. We remember when it was the custom to find each laborer in the harvest field with his pint of spirits daily, that there was frequently more waste from the effect of the drink, than their labor cost. We have seen in the harvest field, by the middle of the afternoon, the reaper so *blue* that he was as likely to cut off his own fingers as the grain, and compelled to resort to a corner of the fence and take a nap, to restore a capacity for work. We have seen half a dozen cradlers racing it through a wheatfield like madmen, yelping and yelling like savages, throwing the grain behind them without care and thought, and causing a waste greater than as many swine would have done, even had they been of the most approved alligator breeds. We have seen a dozen men reeling home from a raising, to sleep away the liquor that had stolen away their reason, or, as was most likely, to abuse their wives and children.—Now, where temperance principles prevail, such scenes are never witnessed; and their influence can be traced in the mitigation of these evils, even where they are not yet fully triumphant.

The proper source of ability to labor is found in food; this alone nourishes and confers strength. Ardent spirits give no nourishment; they only stimulate; and all experience proves that all expenditure of power not based on the true source of supply, can only be temporary, and must produce results the most injurious to the individual. The correct course, then, is to substitute the nutritive for the stimulant; healthful for the injurious; habits that too frequently end in ruin, for those that are certainly safe and honorable.

If there is a single reader of the Cultivator who has never made a trial of farming without rum, we ask him as a friend to make it thoroughly the present season, and then to judge for himself. The experiment is not now an untried and hazardous one; it encounters no opposing of public opinion, nor subjects the farmer to the charge of eccentricity or niggardliness; and it is not one which might once have been considered as tampering with the health of the workingman. The man who labors must have food in abundance, and of the best kind; he must have drink, too, but this should not be ardent spirit. Good home-brewed malt beer, milk, and water, sweetened water slightly acidulated, and a little ginger added, are all good drinks, all contain nourishment, and will allay thirst, at least as effectually as ardent spirits. Discontinue rum and whiskey, and try these; take a biscuit and some cheese, instead of a drink of grog, forenoon and afternoon; eat your meals regularly, and labor reasonably, and our word for it, you will find yourself in all respects as well, and your business much more satisfactorily conducted, than when ardent spirits are used.

UTILITY OF THE SWALLOW.

Although our climate is free from the inroads of locusts and the larger mosquitoes, yet it gives birth to innumerable swarms of gnats and flies that would assuredly be an almost Egyptian annoyance, were the checks upon their increase destroyed; and of these checks the *swallow* is one of the most active and powerful. "Whoever—(as the eloquent and fascinating historian of Selborne has beautifully remarked)—whoever contemplates the myriads of insects that sport in the sunbeams of a summer's evening, will soon be convinced to what a degree our atmosphere would be choaked with them, was it not for the friendly interposition of the swallow tribe"—"a tribe that (to use the language of the same charming writer,) are the most inoffensive, harmless, entertaining, social and *useful* of birds. They touch no fruit in our gardens; delight (all except one species,) in attaching themselves to our houses; amuse us with their migrations, songs and marvellous agility; and clear our outlets from the annoyance of gnats and other troublesome insects."—*White's Nat. Hist. of Selborne.*

"The proper and natural food of swallows, consists almost entirely of gnats, flies and small colepterous insects; and some notion of the myriads of these insects destroyed by swallows alone, without mentioning other *hirundines*, may be formed from a most pleasing and interesting memoir furnished by the Rev. Walter Trevelyan to Mr Bewick, [*British Birds*, vol. i. p. 263,] wherein is mentioned that a tame and young swallow could eat from 700 to 1000 flies in a day. Now, if an immatured bird of this species, and in a confined state too, could destroy so many we may be assured that when at large, and having others to provide for as well as themselves, swallows must commit very wide and extensive devastation amongst winged insects. Supposing them to arrive about the middle of April, and to depart about the middle or end of September, making a stay of five whole months, and allowing that each swallow destroys from one to two thousand flies daily, the same bird must clear the region it inhabits of nearly 300,000 noxious or troublesome animals in one summer; and before any conception of the myriads destroyed in the course of a single summer by the whole race of *hirundines* can be formed, not only must the exact number of swallows, house-martins, sand-martins, and swifts which visit us be known—a matter that is impossible—but our powers of calculation must be enlarged far beyond what they at present are."—*Fothergill's Nat. History.*

IDLENESS.

"Wretched," says an English writer, "is the man who has no employment but to watch his own digestion, and who on waking up in the morning, has no useful occupation of the day presented to his mind. To such an one, respiration is a toil, and existence a constant disease. Self-oblivion is his only resource—indulgences in alcohol, in various disguises, his remedy; and death or superstition his only comfort and hope. For what was he born? and why does he live? are questions which he constantly asks himself; and his greatest enigmas are the smiling faces of habitual industry, stimulated by the wants of the day or fears of the future. If he is excited to exertion, it is commonly to indulge in some vicious propensity, or display his scorn for those pursuits which render others happier than himself."

SHEEP.

The American Farmer says: To prevent *œstrus ovis*, or the fly which causes worms in the heads of sheep, from carrying on their operations against this animal, you have nothing to do but to prepare a few troughs, and occasionally, say once a week, put a mixture of salt and tar into them, and the sheep will, in licking for the salt, so besmear its nose, as to form an impenetrable barrier against this destructive insect.

It is estimated that the surplus wheat product of Michigan this year will be 2,500,000 bushels; and a surplus of pork of 300,000 barrels. This young State may well boast of her agricultural greatness.

IRRIGATION.

The effects of running water flowing over grass lands, is so highly beneficial that every farmer should ascertain whether there is not some portion of his lands which may be cheaply irrigated. We say *cheaply*, because the price of lands in this region is not high enough to justify such outlays as are often profitably made in England and on the continent of Europe. The waters of many a small stream in our hill country, might by a few hours' work with the plow, be carried along the hill-side in such manner that they would percolate through the slight embankment and nourish a vigorous growth of grass on all the sloping ground below the ditch or canal. This is cheap manure—applying itself year after year—and long maintaining the fertility of the soil unimpaired. At the base of the hill it will often be necessary to open a drain for the water which finds its way down.—Should it come to a flat and cold soil, as it often would at the termination of the descent, that soil would be injured. While flowing water is favorable to vegetable growth, stagnant water is baneful. Wherever the farmer can cause water to flow over his grass lands without stagnating upon them, he will find great benefit from the operation.—The following article from the Southern Agriculturist will be read with interest, though it describes processes more expensive than most cultivators will be ready to adopt.—Ed.

Washington, April 2d, 1841.

To the National Institution for the Promotion of Science:

Since the brief statement of the advantages of irrigation appeared in my discourse delivered before the institution in January last, I have received so many applications for information on the manner of watering land, that I am induced to believe a more extended notice of the subject may be acceptable and useful.

The numerous and abundant rivers, streams and brooks which traverse our country in every direction, afford great facilities for irrigating the soil, and thousands of acres of barren land might thereby be rendered as productive as any in the United States.

The thin soils, which drain and dry easily, profit most by the use of water, and are the least productive without it. The gravelly, sandy land of Chile produces by irrigation, upwards of thirty bushels of wheat to the acre, and the poor lands in the neighborhood of Mexico, are made equally productive by this process. The great advantage, however, to be derived from the free use of water is not so much in the increase of grain, as in that of grass crops. A water meadow attached to a farm gives the farmer an abundance of manure for that portion of his land which he keeps in tillage; for he may convert into dung the whole of the hay it produces, while it requires nothing in return but watering.

In the Carolinas and Georgia the low lands bordering on the rivers are irrigated as high up as the influence of the tide extends for the cultivation of rice. The water is admitted into ditches parallel and perpendicular to the river, and thence distributed by feeders over the whole surface, so as to drown the land, by opening the sluices when the tide is rising; and after keeping it there as long as is deemed necessary, it is let off at low tide.—This method might be practiced with great advantage on all the tide-water rivers throughout our country where the banks are low enough to admit the water at high tide. Flat lands that have not the advantage of tide water, are the most difficult to irrigate successfully, for it is essential that when the water is let off, the land should be drained perfectly dry; otherwise it will produce coarse grass of inferior quality.

Lands that have a gentle slope, even steep hill-side, are better adapted for irrigation, as they admit of the water flowing over them without covering the top of the plants, thus giving them the advantage of air and moisture. A gentle current is considered more advantageous than stagnant water, and the land thus situated will always drain dry when the water ceases to flow. On level land it is necessary to conduct the drain so far that it may enter the river low enough to ensure a sufficient fall to dry the land.

Where the stream is rapid and the fall great, it is not necessary to construct any dam; but simply to tap the river high enough up to lead the water along the highest part of the field; but where the current is sluggish, the water must be raised by a dam erected at the point where it is to be used.

There are two methods of watering lands. The one by dividing the field into regular beds, and the other by what is called catch work, which is resorted to where the form of the ground is irregular. It varies therefore with the circumstances of the land it is proposed to water; but the conductors, feeders and drains must be laid out so as to profit by the natural movements of the soil both to water and to drain it.

The first thing to be done by the farmer who desires to irrigate his fields, is to take an accurate level of the ground which he intends to water, so as to compare the highest part of it with the height of the water to be used. The surface of the water must be eight, twelve or twenty inches higher than that of the land, according to the distance of one, two or three hundred yards from the one to the other. The main conductor is then to be cut from that point as straight as it can be, to lead to and continue along the highest side of the field. If the land has any swells on its surface higher than the rest, it will be necessary to give to each of them its own conductor, with feeders branching from it, to convey the water over that portion of the field. The width of the conductors must depend upon the quantity of water they are required to convey; and be deep enough to receive the muddiest portion of the stream; for although the land will profit by being covered with clear water, it is more enriched by the deposit of turbid streams. Each conductor is to be provided with a sluice to regulate the admission of the water. In case the river does not run in such a direction as to allow the water, after flowing the land, to be discharged directly into it, a main drain must be cut along the lower part of the meadow to receive the surplus water and convey it into the river. This should be of the same dimensions as the principal conductor. The portion of meadow to be watered by each conductor is next to be divided into beds from thirty to fifty feet wide, the feeders, which branch at right angles from the conductor, running along the centre of them, except where the ground falls two ways, when it may be necessary to make the feeders nearer to one drain than the other. A bed two hundred yards long will require a feeder where it leaves the conductor to be twenty inches wide, and gradually diminishing in width to twelve inches the extremity. A drain is to be made between every two feeders, and parallel to them of the same dimensions, but reversed form; the upper part being ten or twelve inches, and the drain gradually widening to twenty inches, where it terminates either in the main or in the river. Supposing these works finished and ready to go into operation, the manager opens the sluice to admit the water into the conductor, where he adjusts the stops in such a manner as to supply the feeders. He next regulates the stops in the first feeder, so that the water shall flow regularly over its sides from one end to the other. He then repeats this process in the second feeder, and so on until all the feeders are adjusted. The stops may be of pieces of board or of turf pinned down, if necessary, taking care to keep the heads of the pegs below the surface of the water, otherwise they are apt to collect weeds and trash.

The rule in Europe is to flow the land throughout the months of October, November, December and January, letting the water run ten or fifteen days at a time, and keeping the land perfectly dry during the intervals. This can only be done in situations where it is not liable to freeze hard; for a sheet of ice forming over the soil would injure it. In February it is recommended to water in the evening and let the water off early in the morning:—this practice is continued through March and April, the water during that period being never kept on the land more than two or three days at a time. From the first week in May, the land is left dry until the grass is cut and the hay harvest is over, when it may be watered again for a short time, to secure an abundant after-grass that may be fed off.

The profits arising from irrigation are so great that they will justify a considerable outlay. The works, therefore, ought to be well and durably constructed; the dams and sluices of the best materials, and able to resist the sudden rising of the water. The beds which as already stated, are to be from thirty to fifty feet wide, should be raised from one foot to fourteen inches in the centre, so that the water will fall gently off from the feeders which run along their summits to the drains.

Where an old and well set meadow is to be watered, it is advisable to lift the turf and level and prepare the subsoil, relaying the turf after the beds are made. This process of lifting the turf and relaying it after plowing and manuring the subsoil of old grass lands, is practiced in the best agricultural districts in Europe with great advantage, even when it is not intended to prepare them for irrigation, but only to invigorate the growth of the grasses. If when the works are completed, the soil is to be plowed up and levelled, it will require two or three years before it will be sufficiently set in grass to allow its being watered without working.

I have endeavored to give such a description of the process of irrigation as will at least enable a farmer to judge of the practicability of watering any portion of his land, if not to execute the work himself. Those who seek for further information on this important subject, may consult the works of Boswell, Wright, Smith and Johnson, Loudon's Encyclopedia of Agriculture, and Stephen's Practical Irrigator. The construction of works for irrigation belongs, however, to the civil engineer, and it is to be hoped that those of the United States will turn their attention to the subject. Our extensive lines of canals may, for the most part, be converted into conductors, and the water be beneficially used to fructify the country through which they pass. If a blessing awaits the man who makes two blades of grass grow where only one

grew before, the irrigator will be thrice blessed—for well watered land will produce at least three times as much grass as the same quality of soil under dry culture. J. R. POINSETT.

ON SEEDING OLD PASTURE LANDS.

I have mislaid some of my last year numbers of the Cultivator which treats of the subject of seeding pasture grounds which have become worthless by lying many years without dressing, and wishing to have the benefit of your experience in this matter, which concerns every dairy farmer as well as myself, I should like to have you treat more fully on this subject in your fall numbers, as that is the season, I think, which you recommend as most proper to plow such lands.

Yours, &c. W. E.

Holliston, July 29, 1841.

One of the most important aids of the dairy farmer is good pastures. He may select the best of stock, and pay the strictest attention to his milking, his churning, and his cheese-making; still he must fence and pay taxes for ten acres of pasture for each cow, and if he yet be obliged to cut his corn stalks in August to keep his stock from starving, he can make but little profit from his dairy.

How can we expect old pasture grounds which have been fed for half a century without a visit from any tool more efficient than a bush-scythe, to yield an abundance of good feed?

There is no difficulty attending the improvement of any pasture grounds in which the plow can be introduced. People may plead in vain their inability to improve their pastures on the ground of a deficiency of manures. And any one who has a team, may gradually enrich such lands without the application of any thing better than what is buried in the furrow.

The first of September or the last of August, is a very convenient time to plow up pasture grounds. At this season of the year the bushes and the wild grass are green, and will readily become manures for the future grasses. This is also a season of leisure—teams are strong and may be fed with half the expense which is required in the spring—and the pasture grounds may now be spared better than at any other season, as most farmers by this time have mowing grounds on which they turn their stock—and in addition to these, this is the only season when we can put the plow into some lands which are kept in pasture, on account of the springy nature of the ground.

The low parts of every pasture should be ridged—that is, as far as the plow will ridge them when narrow lands are marked out. It will be found about as easy to mark out strips of ground not more than a rod wide, for what is called "a land," as to include a larger quantity; and in this way the ground may be sufficiently ridged without making use of the spade for the purpose. We hope many of our readers will sow rye with their grass seed; not to be reaped, but to be fed in the spring. We sow herdsgrass and redtop with the rye, but we never sow clover or honeysuckle until winter: March or April is the proper time for sowing these, and no harrow is needed to bury the seeds, as the spring rains will cover them sufficiently. Some of our farmers prefer to sow no grass seeds till March, as they wish to avoid the risk of winter-killing—a fate which rye and grass seeds of all kinds will sometimes meet.

It is not very material that the plow shall turn every sod when the land is not to be mown. Pasture lands are often so rough, that the *cut and cover* mode of plowing is the only one that can be adopted. In such cases a good harrow will scatter fresh loam on to parts which the plow has not turned; and here the new seed will vegetate or the old grasses will be renovated and made better. —*Boston Cultivator.*

FALL SEEDING.

We again remind our readers that the time for laying down lands to grass approaches, and that now is the time to prepare the soil for the seed.—Those who have worthless meadows or slough holes are invited to try the virtues of loam or fine gravel applied to the surface so as to destroy completely the old vegetable growth. Two or three inches in depth of covering will be found sufficient in most cases where the surface of the meadow is even, and the whole cost of preparing one acre for the compost manures which may be put upon the surface, will not exceed twelve dollars, in cases where loam or gravel may be found within the distance of ten rods.

We say, *try one acre—half an acre—one rod square*—if no more capital can be spared to make improvements in grass lands. Remember last July: the dry weather had no bad effect on the low land grasses, but in many cases it improved them. Now is the time if ever, to pare off and make smooth the surface of these bogs for the admission of other matter to warm and to render them fertile. The sods may be piled in heaps to be dried and burned in a few days after they are cut, and the ashes should be spread over the whole surface. If these sods should not be sufficiently dry for burning this season; or if they should be only partially burnt, they may be piled up anew in heaps as large as half a hay-cock, and after haying next season they will burn down to ashes; then these ashes may be spread over the whole surface, and the places where the heaps stood may be sown with grass seed.

Ditches for such lands should be dug parallel with each other, and no cross ditches should be made when this can be avoided; for they are in the way of the team, which may be needed in a few years to subvert the soil and prepare it for new seed. If cross ditches should be found necessary, they should be covered drains, and they will not obstruct the team.

Care must be taken to cover up the old grasses completely and they will soon perish; and it is not advisable to suffer an iron-tooth harrow to be used after the loam is carted or wheeled on. A brush harrow, or, if it is miry, so as not to bear a team, a hand rake will soon bury sufficiently the seed for an acre.—*Ibid.*

WHEAT CROP.

The Maine Farmer, of August 28th, says—The wheat crop is coming in very good indeed. Most of the wheat in this vicinity was sown late, in order to avoid the ravages of the weevil. The dry clear weather has prevented the rust, and as a general thing, the crops of wheat which are now being cut, are very full indeed. We have had some gentle rains too, which were of great service.

In the vicinity of Gardiner, Me., but 2 3-10 inches of rain have fallen for seven weeks.

SUN DIAL.

We have just seen in Messrs. Breck & Co.'s Agricultural Warehouse, a neat cast iron sun dial, at the low price of 75 cents, which would be a convenient article near the farm-house. Mr Moore, the maker, thus describes a mode of setting it:—

"The most convenient way of setting them is, after levelling the pedestal or plane on which the dial is to be placed, to adjust a clock or watch to the true apparent time, (either by setting it by another timepiece known to be correct, or by equal altitudes or other observations of the sun,) and then at precisely 12 o'clock, M., to set the dial true and make it fast to the pedestal by screws or nails.

They are accurate for the latitude of this place (41° 36') and will be sufficiently so for 150 or 200 miles north or south of this parallel, and will be entirely correct for any latitude, if the dial is inclined in setting so that the edge of the gnomon that casts the shadow, will be parallel with the pole of the earth; in other words, when the latitude is less than that of the dial, the south side is elevated as many degrees as the latitude is less, and when the latitude is greater, the north side is raised in the same proportion."

PEACHES.

For pickling, select large plum peaches that are ripe but not the least soft. Wipe off the fuzz with a cloth, put them in strong salt and water, and let them stand for ten days, then soak them in fresh water two or three days, to draw out the salt, shifting the water every day. Put them in a jar, strewing between each layer a small handful of sugar, a few cloves, and a little powdered cinnamon, and cover them with the best vinegar. Firm clingstone peaches may be kept a year or two in strong brine, as directed for cucumbers, and pickled in the same manner. They look very pretty when pared and colored with pink with beet juice or cochineal. —*Kentucky Housewife.*

PICKLED EGGS.

Boil them till they are hard; throw them into cold water immediately while hot, which will make the shells slip off smoothly without breaking the eggs; boil some red beets till very soft; peel and mash them fine, and put enough of the juice into some plain cold vinegar to color it a fine pink; add a very little salt, pepper, nutmeg and cloves; put the eggs into a jar, and transfuse the vinegar, &c. over them. They make a delightful garnish to remain whole, for poultry game and fish, and still more beautiful when cut in ringlets.—*Ib.*

GOOD ADVICE.

Be, and continue poor, young man, while others around you grow rich by fraud and disloyalty; be without place or power, while others beg their way upward; bear the pain of disappointed hopes, while others gain the accomplishment of theirs by flattery; forego the gracious pressure of the hand, for which others cringe and crawl. Wrap yourself in your own virtue, and seek a friend and your daily bread. If you have, in such a course, grown grey with unblenched honor, bless God and die.—*Hinzelmann.*

The Nashville Agriculturist has been presented with a tomato weighing one and a half pound!

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1841.

WET MEADOWS—DRAINING OF THEM.

We have no fears that we can press the subject of draining meadow lands too strongly upon public attention. Such lands, when reclaimed, furnish some of our very best soils: they are suited to nearly all our crops. Also, while the process of ditching is going on, materiel is obtained in abundance for the hog-pen, the barn-yard, and the compost heap. The peat, muck, meadow mud, or whatever else may be its proper name, is the farmer's mine of wealth. We insist upon it that our farmers can find more gold and silver in the muck holes and swamps than in their other lands. The vegetable matter should be thrown up and exposed to the influences of the weather. Age—age will render that which is too sour to be of any service during the season in which it is dug—*age* will render even such matter a very serviceable article for use on the land:—pile up the muck—get two or three years' supply on hand. And before you set about this work, ascertain whether you cannot obtain the substance wanted by opening ditches which will draw off the stagnant waters from your wet lands. So plan the work as to "kill two birds with one stone." This can be done upon thousands of acres in the vicinity of our city. When these waste places shall have been reclaimed, the agricultural products of the Commonwealth must be very greatly increased.

One consideration in reference to such lands deserves more regard than we remember to have seen attached to it, viz: that their fertility may be kept up at a much smaller outlay for manure than is required upon the uplands. Clay, loam, sand, gravel, each operates as a fertilizer upon the collection of decayed vegetable matters in the meadows; and by the use of these materiels on the lowlands, much the larger portion of the animal manure may be reserved for the dryer grounds. The produce of the meadow will increase the quantity of manure upon the farm to a greater extent than will be required for keeping itself in good condition, so that the reclaiming of such grounds will help one to means of enriching the remainder of the farm.

The quality of our wet meadows in their natural state, is so diverse, that it is difficult to give any general directions as to the best process of improvement. And yet a classification of them may be formed, such as will enable one to offer some hints in relation to the best method to apply to each class.

Where the meadow is tough swarded—where it bears a good burthen of meadow grass—where the bogs or hassocks grow, it is difficult to subvert the sod, and bring the land into a suitable state for tillage. Here we judge it best to cut off the hassocks in the easiest and best way that each one's mother wit can devise, and then put on a coating (not very thick) of whatever materiel from the upland can be most easily obtained. Perhaps the least expensive way of removing the hassocks is, to cut them off with an adz, or hoe similar in shape to the blade of the adz. This process is laborious, but there is a time in the early spring, usually in the latter part of March, when the frost is out of the top and sides of the hassock, while there is a hard frozen spot under its centre. At this time they can be cut with much dispatch. The frozen bunch serves as a block on which to chop off the roots; and that bunch is raised by the frost above its natural position, so that though, when you have pared it, there seems to remain a small elevation, yet as soon as the frost is gone, the bunch disappears. Let the ground be smoothed thus much and then put on clay or loam or gravel about two inches thick, and the quantity and quality of the grass will be greatly improved.

In March, 1839, we prepared a small lot in this way, sowed on hay seed in August, and though no manure has been applied, there was upon that ground the present summer a very stout crop, *mostly clover*. We judge it good husbandry not to make the first coating upon these lands very deep. A thick coating requires manure at once; but the thinner coating *apparently* causes some such chemical action between itself and the meadow, at the depth where the grass roots lie thickest, as is highly favorable to the growth of the grass. If similar action takes place 5 or 6 inches below the surface, the grass derives (certainly while it is young) less benefit from it. Our belief is, that a thin coating, and then from year to year a top dressing of the upland materiel, is a much more economical process than that of a thick coating in the outset; this we should recommend even if it should be made apparent that a portion of the meadow grass will survive. One of the most enterprising farmers in Essex county, Mr Joseph How, of Methuen, informed us, a year or two since, that where he had done nothing but smooth his meadow, put on a thin coat of loam, and sow his seed, he had obtained annually two tons of good English hay per acre for three or four successive years.

An aged gentleman in Wenham, Mr Peter Dodge, many years since commenced the application of *clay* to such lands, and we doubt whether there are any better grass lands in the county than the many acres which he has thus prepared. This process is known in the neighborhood under the name of "*Peterising*," and it has been so successful that where clay can be conveniently obtained, it should be applied in preference to any thing else.

The meadows which are free from hassocks and have a loose surface, it will be good economy to turn over with the plow or hoe, and till them. Potatoes, corn, winter rye, wheat, pumpkins, squashes, beans, ruta bagas, and sugar beets we have had to do well on such lands. Here wash from the roadside, loam, &c., are good manures. An addition of ashes is of great service. All the manures are good here—but some dressings which on the upland would be nearly worthless, will here greatly increase the crop.

But one essential point is yet to be noticed. We refer to the draining. And in this matter, discretion or sound judgment is of the greatest importance. One ditch through the lowest part of the meadow, any man may mark out. But this will seldom be all that is required. Before the waters from the shore, whether they be those that run down on the surface of the upland, or those which are oozing out from below—before these waters can reach the centre ditch, they must work their way through the whole mass of mud which lies between the ditch and the shore; in doing this they will keep the whole mass wet with stagnant, or nearly stagnant waters. While this is the case, the meadow will be much less productive than it is easy to make it. Ditches across or at right angles with the main ditch, may help to remedy the evil, but these, beside that they accomplish the work of draining but very imperfectly, are great obstacles to a convenient cultivation of the lands. Along the shore is the proper place for opening the most serviceable drains—and if the lands adjoining are springy, these shore drains should be dug 8 or 10 inches into the pan below the mud. The earth thrown up, whether sand, gravel or clay, will make a good dressing for the adjoining meadow. The importance of going into the pan in all very wet places, will be obvious to any one who will reflect, that if the water stands in a ditch, the bottom of which is the hard smooth pan, that this water will be constantly finding its way in under the mud upon the descending surface of the pan, and that the mud or peat above will be constantly taking it up like a sponge.—See that you drain thoroughly.

CROPS IN ENGLAND.

The climate of our mother land seems to vary from week to week the prospect for the wheat crop, more even than our weather changes the indications with us. There are always and everywhere croakers, who from thoughtlessness or interest, raise the cry of short crops. The papers from England, received by the Brittannia last week, contain numerous paragraphs relating to the weather and its effects upon the crop. While some represent that there will be a general shortness of the crop, others point to particular sections where the harvest will be good, and infer that there will be no scarcity. The high excitement throughout the country in relation to the Corn Laws, naturally gives biases to those who touch upon the subject, and it is not easy to satisfy ourself as to the actual state of the crops. We, however, must infer that very considerable quantities of foreign grain will be wanted in the island, and as there is a prospect that the duty will come down sufficiently to justify shipment from this country, the price of flour with us will for some time maintain the increased price which it now commands.—The crops of wheat both in England and this country are probably somewhat less than an average, and flour will not be as low as for the last year. Nothing, however, is known to us which authorizes the expectation that there will be a scarcity, or that flour or grain will be higher than at present.

Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

EXHIBITION OF FRUITS.

Saturday, Aug. 28.

From M. P. Wilder—fine Dahlias; among them Constantia, Rival Revenge and Primrose.
From S. Walker—Bouquets.
From Hovey & Co—Dahlias and Bouquets.
From Capt. Macondry—Dahlias.
From H. W. Dutton—Dahlias; among the number, Charles XII. (white tipped.)
From J. Stickney—Dahlias.
From J. G Sprague—Dahlias.
From C. McClure—Dahlias.
From S. Sweetser—several fine Roses and Dahlias.
From A. H. Hovey—Gladiolus floribundus and Phlox Drummondii.
From D. McIntyre—fine Dahlias, viz: Eva, Amato, &c.
From S. R. Johnson—Roses, and ten kinds of fine Balsams.
From P. Barnes—Dahlias.
From J. L. L. F. Warren—Bouquets.
Bouquets from Messrs Winship, W. Kenrick, and Misses Sumner.

Saturday, Sept. 4.

From Hovey & Co.—Dahlias, Phlox Drummondii and seedling Verbenas.
From D. McIntyre—fine Dahlias and Asters.
From H. W. Dutton—fine Dahlias.
From Capt. Macondry—Dahlias.
From A. H. Hovey—Gladiolus floribundus, and Annuals.
From M. P. Wilder—Dahlias, viz: Squibb's Defiance, Constantia, &c.
From J. Stickney—Dahlias.
From P. Barnes—Dahlias.
Bouquets from S. Walker, W. Kenrick, J. L. L. F. Warren, J. Hovey, Hovey & Co. and Misses Sumner.
Native Plants from B. E. Cotting.

For the Committee,
C. M. HOVEY, *Chm'n.*

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, week ending Sept. 5.

Sept. 1841.		5, A.M.	12, M.	7, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	30	64	69	62	N. E.
Tuesday,	31	64	69	64	N. E.
Wednesday,	1	58	68	66	E.
Thursday,	2	62	77	71	S. E.
Friday,	3	64	84	75	S. E.
Saturday,	4	69	83	74	S. W.
Sunday,	5	62	68	64	S. E.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Sept. 6, 1841.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

At Market 520 Beef Cattle, 700 Stores, 3,800 Sheep and 420 Swine.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.*—The better qualities of Beef Cattle were scarce, consequently higher prices were obtained. We quote first quality, $5 50 a 6 00. Second quality, $4 75 a 5 50. Third quality $3 00 a 4 50.

Stores.—A large number of purchasers were at market and higher prices were obtained. We quote two year old $8 a 13. Three year old, $14 a 22.

Sheep.—Sales quick at a small advance. Lots were sold at the following prices, 75c. $1 00, $1 17, $1 25, $1 42, $1 62, $1 92 and $1 25.

Swine.—Lots to peddle were sold from 3 to 3 1-2 for sows and 4 and 4 1-4 for barrows. A lot Old barrows at 3 1-2. At retail, 4 to 5 1-2

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, very little in market. Red Top, 50 to 55 cents. Clover—Northern, 13c.—Southern, 10 c. Flax Seed, $1, 37 to 1 50 bu. Lucerne, 25 c. per lb.

FLOUR. Howard Street $6 87—Genesee $7 25—Ohio $6 75.

GRAIN. Corn—Northern Yellow none—Round Yellow 88—Southern Flat Yellow 80—White 80.—Rye—Northern 70 to 72—Southern none. Oats—Southern 45 to 47—Northern 50 to 54.

PROVISIONS. Beef—Mess $10 50 to 11 00—Prime $6 50—No. 1 $9 00. Pork—Extra—15 00—Clear 14 50—Mess $13 00. Hams—Northern 9 c. per lb—Southern, none. Lard—Boston 9 c per lb.—Southern, 8 to 8 1-2. Butter—Lump 18 to 22—Firkin 12 to 18—Shipping 8 to 14.

HAY, per ton, $18 to 20—Eastern Screwed $14 to 16.

CHEESE—Old 11 c.—New 8.

EGGS, 14 a 16.

WOOL—The market for this article has not experienced any change of late. Pulled Wool is rather scarce, and there is but a limited supply of low Fleeces and of fine Fleeces the stock is also moderate. Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 50 to 55 c.—American full blood, washed, 47 to 50—Do. 3-4 blood, washed, 44 to 46—Do. 1-2 blood, washed, 36 to 40—1-4 and common do, 35 to 37—Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 to 23—Do. unwashed, 10 to 14—Bengasi Sheep, 8 to 10—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 to 10—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 42 to 46—No. 1 do. do. 37 to 42—No 2 do do 26 to 30—No 3 do do 18 to 20.

HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

The Annual Exhibition, of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, will take place at their room, 23 Tremont Row, (opposite the Savings Bank) on *Wednesday*, *Thursday* and *Friday*, 22d, 23d and 24th of Sept.

Choice and rare specimens of Fruits and Flowers are respectfully solicited from the members of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and from the lovers of Horticulture generally. Committees will be in attendance to receive contributions on *Monday* and *Tuesday*, 20th and 21st of September, and the specimens sent will be retained, subject to the order of the owner.

A list, giving the names of the specimens of Fruits and Flowers presented is respectfully requested.

Per order of the Committee of Arrangements.

S. WALKER, *Chairman.*

Boston, Sept. 7th, 1841.

HORTICULTURAL DINNER.

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society propose celebrating their ensuing Anniversary, by a Public Dinner at Concert Hall, on Friday the 24th inst.

Tickets, *three dollars*, may be had at the N. E. Farmer Office, No. 52 North Market Street, or at Messrs. Hovey & Co's. Seed Store, No. 7 Merchants' Row, any time previous to Monday, 20th inst. Sept. 8.

L'ETANG LIME.

Farmers in want of Lime for Agricultural purposes will find it greatly to their advantage to try the St. George Co's. L'Etang Lime, said to be superior for that purpose to any other ever yet introduced. For sale by DAVID DAVIS, over the Hope Insurance Office, State St., Boston.

Sept. 8. 3m

PRINCE'S NURSERIES AND GARDENS.

The New Catalogues are now ready for distribution *gratis* to all who apply, *post paid*, per mail. They comprise an immense assortment of Fruits and Ornamental Trees, Shrubbery, and Plants, Bulbous Flower Roots, and Dahlias, Green House Plants, Garden Seeds, &c., all of which are now at much reduced prices.

Orders, per mail, to WM. R. PRINCE, Flushing, will receive prompt attention. 4teow Sept. 8

STRAWBERRIES! STRAWBERRIES!!

The subscriber would offer to the public, the present season, his *Selected Collection*, consisting of *seven varieties*; they are such as have stood the test of a *fair trial* for *seven years*, and all grown by the subscriber.

Warren's Seeding Methven, a new and valuable kind, a free bearer, fruit very large and juicy; fruit measuring 5 1-2 inches have been exhibited the present season. This variety can be warranted to be one of the finest varieties grown, and will produce as fine fruit and as large quantity, with the same cultivation, as any other ever offered. The price of this Seedling is $5 00 per hundred plants.

Methven Castle.—Fruit extremely large, high flavored and showy; specimens of this fruit have been shown this season six inches in circumferance. Price three dollars per hundred plants

Keen's Seedling.—A very superior variety, fruit very large, rich dark color, and uncommonly high flavored Price three dollars per hundred.

Royal Scarlet.—Fruit long oval shaped and juicy, very free bearer, and very hardy. Price two dollars.

Hautbois.—Fruit larger than English Wood, exceedingly numerous, sometimes yielding 100 berries to the plant.—Price two dollars.

Early Virginia—This is known to be the earliest and best fruit for market, a free bearer and very hardy. Price two dollars

English Wood—Fruit well known for years. Price one dollar.

Every plant sent from this garden will be warranted to be free from mixtures, and shall also be young and healthy, worth the price paid for them.

All orders directed to the subscriber, inclosing the amount for the order, or with a good reference, shall be promptly attended to, and the plants forwarded agreeably to directions. Orders can also be left in the subscriber's box, at JOSEPH BRECK & CO'S Seed Warehouse.

JAMES L. L. F. WARREN.

Aug. 11. eopistm *Nonantum Vale, Brighton.*

WILLIS'S LATEST IMPROVED VEGETABLE CUTTER.

This machine surpasses all others for the purpose of cutting Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel, and other roots The great objection to other machines, is their cutting the roots into slices, which makes it almost impossible for the cattle to get hold of them; this machine with a little alteration, cuts them into large or small pieces, of such shape as is most convenient for the cattle to eat. It will cut with ease from one to two bushels of roots per minute.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, No 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston. Sept. 1

GRINDSTONES.

An extensive assortment of Water and Hand Grindstones constantly on hand and for sale by AMMI C. LOMBARD & CO. 13 Lewis's Wharf. 1sly Nov. 17.

APPLE PARERS.

Just received at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, No 51 and 52 North Market Street, a good supply of *Stanley's Superior Apple Parers*, a very useful article. With one of these machines a bushel of apples may be pared in a very short time in the best possible manner, and with great saving of the apple, as the outsides may be taken off at any required thickness. The above is also for sale at N. P. H. WILLIS', No 45 North Market Street, SCUDDER, CORDIS & CO., and HOSMER & TAPPAN, Milk Street.

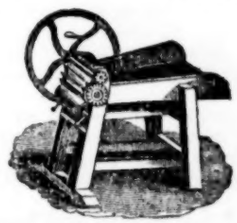
Sept. 1 6w JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

SUN DIALS.

Just received a few of Sheldon & Moore's, Sun Dials, a very neat and useful article for the purpose of giving the time of day in the garden or field. Price 75 cents. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No 51 and 52 North Market St.

Sept 1.

GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.



JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.

2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.

3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.

4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

NOTICE TO HORTICULTURISTS.
Whale Oil Soap.

The subscriber has constantly on hand, and in quantities to suit purchasers, this useful article which has lately proved itself so destructive to the great variety of insects which infest the Garden, Shrubs, Vines and Flowers.

THADDEUS PERKINS, 109 State street.

Boston Aug. 4th, 1841. 1m

ORIENTAL POPPY.

The best time for planting this magnificent Perennial, is the present time. For sale at 50 cents per root. Also, Pæony Whitleii, Humei, Rosea, Albicans, Tenufolia. Hybrida, Tartarica, &c., from 50 cents to $1 00 per root.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK, & CO., No. 51 and 52 North Market Street. Sept. 1

BULBOUS ROOTS.

The subscribers offers for sale a great variety of Pæonies, Lillys, Crown Imperials, and other Bulbous and fibrous rooted plants which are most successfully planted in August.

Also, Hyacinths, Tulips, Narcissus, and Bulbous roots of every description. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Aug. 11.

EDMUND T. HASTINGS & CO.
Pure Sperm Oil.

No. 101 State St, keep constantly for sale, Winter, Spring and Fall Sperm Oil, bleached and unbleached; which they warrant to be of the best quality and to burn without crusting.

Oil Canisters of various sizes.

Boston, Jan. 1, 1841. 1sly

TYE UP CHAINS.

Just received by Packet Coromandn, 500 Chains for tying up Cattle.

These chains, introduced by E. H. Derby, Esq. of Salem, and Col. Jacques, for the purpose of securing cattle to the stall, are found to be the safest and most convenient mode of fastening cows and oxen to the stanchion.

For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No. 52 North Market st.

MISCELLANEOUS.

From the Daily Advertiser.

DIRGE FOR THE EMIGRANT'S DAUGHTER.

"The bright little prattler you remember so full of life but a few short months ago, we have laid away in the cold ground. It is indeed difficult to feel that she is gone forever. She was our only one, and words cannot express the anguish of our hearts."—*Letter from the West.*

They remember the innocent look of a child,
With an aspect of love as an angel smiled:—
When the cricket at evening his melody hums,
In many a heart-soothing vision she comes.

When the shadows of morning lengthen along,
They listen to catch the notes of her song;
And as once it gladdened the summer bower,
They dream of her voice in the midnight hour.

They wander along in the deep-wooded glen,
And her laugh seems to ring through the vallies again;
But the moonbeams came down on the deep mountain rill,
And vainly they watch for her step on the hill!

Like the flash for a moment that bursts on the sight,
She vanished from earth to the fountain of light,—
Like the tinge of a cloud at the parting of day,
That beautiful presence has faded away!

THE DEAF AND DUMB.

To enter the world without a welcome—to leave it without an adieu—to suffer and to be unable to communicate your suffering—to stand a sad and silent monument amid the joys of others, which you cannot understand nor conceive of—to be shut out of life—to carry within your bosom the buried seeds of happiness which is never to grow, of intellect which is never to germinate—to find even your presence afflictive, and not to know whether you excite compassion or horror—a whole existence without one cheering sound—without one welcome accent—without one exhilirating thought—without one idea of the present—without one hope of the future. Oh! what a cloud of wretchedness covers, surrounds and overwhelms such a deplorable victim of sorrow!

Now to throw over such a benighted being the sweet rays of intelligence—to open the intellect, and let it gush forth in streams of light and joy—to rouse the affections that they may know and love God—to enlighten the soul, that it may see its origin and its destiny—to cause the lips to smile, although they cannot speak—the eye to glisten with other emotions than those of sorrow—and the mind to understand, although it cannot hear—oh! what a beautiful supplement to the benevolence of heaven!—*E. Everett.*

RECIPES.

To extract a Glass Stopper. Take a large strip of wool, pass it once round the neck of the bottle, attach one end of this band to some fixed object, hold the other, and then see-saw the bottle along it. The friction will soon heat the neck of the bottle, and by the heat the neck will expand sufficiently to allow of the stopper being extracted.

To preserve Apples and Pears. Wipe the fruit dry, then take a varnished crock or wide-mouthed jar, at the bottom of which is to be a layer of fine and very dry sand; on this place a layer of fruit, and so alternately fruit and sand, until the crock or jar is full. Put a very thick coat of sand on the top, and place it in a dry place. Apples or pears thus treated, will keep good all the winter.

To preserve Steel from Rust. Take some melted virgin wax and rub it over the article to be preserved. When dry, warm the article again so as to get off the wax, and rub it with a dry cloth until the former polish is restored. By this means all the pores of the metal are filled up without injury to the appearance, and rust will not attack it unless it is very carelessly exposed to constant humidity.

To preserve Reptiles. Three parts of distilled water may be added to one part of alcohol; or equal parts of rectified spirit of wine and distilled water are preferable; these proportions will be found sufficiently strong to preserve reptiles or fishes, and have the additional advantage of not destroying colors. I believe either of these mixtures will preserve anatomical preparations.—*Selected.*

A FREAK OF NATURE.

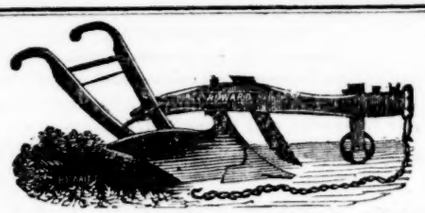
Among the "distinguished strangers" who visited our city on Commencement day, we noticed a four legged chicken, which was hatched in the henery of a farmer in the neighboring town of Orange. It had attained to about the size of a quail, and appeared to be as healthy and sprightly as any of the feathered race. Its extra drum-sticks appeared to be of but little if any use, although they were well formed, and were furnished with the usual appendage of feet, claws, &c. They had not, however, kept up with the fore legs in growth; but were far behind their compeers in size as well as location. What is very remarkable in the natural history of this little fellow is the fact that he is a *quadruped*, while all his numerous family connexions, from parents, brothers and sisters, down to the remotest degree of cousinship, are mere *bipeds.*—*New Haven Farmer's Gaz.*

Ashes or salt, it is said, sprinkled over cabbages, will prevent damage from worms.

GRINDSTONES, ON FRICTION ROLLERS.

Grindstones of different sizes hung on friction rollers and moved with a foot treader, is found to be a great improvement on the present mode of hanging grindstones. The ease with which they move upon the rollers, renders them very easy to turn with the foot, by which the labor of one man is saved, and the person in the act of grinding, can govern the stone more to his mind by having the complete control of his work. Stones hung in this manner are becoming daily more in use, and wherever used, give universal satisfaction. The rollers can be attached to stones hun in the common way.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Boston. July 14



HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard or rocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twentyseven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twentynine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside; this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough, sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

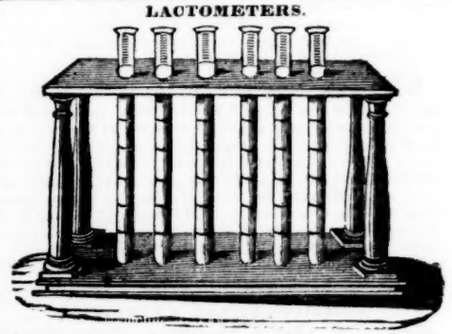
The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

FENCE CHAINS.

Just received from England, 10,000 feet Chains, suitable for Fences or other purposes. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No. 52 North Market st. April 21

LACTOMETERS.



Just received at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 and 52, North Market st., a few sets of Lactometers, for testing the quality of milk.

June 23 JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

NEW TURNIP SEED.

Just received and for sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 51 and 52 North Market street,

500 lbs. TURNIP SEED, of the growth of 1841.

July 14. JOS. BRECK & CO.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

A WEEKLY PAPER.

The Editorial department of this paper having come into the hands of the subscriber, he is now authorized by the publishers to inform the public that the price of the paper is reduced. In future the terms will be $2 per year *in advance,* or $2 50 if not paid within thirty days. ALLEN PUTNAM.

N. B.—Postmasters are required by law to frank all subscriptions and remittances for newspapers, without expense to subscribers.

TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS.